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ALLEGED KILLER TELLS HIS STORY FROM JAILHOUSE

DELLEN MILLARD DENIES MURDERING TIM BOSMA AND OFFERS HIS OWN ACCOUNT OF THE ARREST, PRISON LIFE, HIS FUTURE PLANS AND HIS PLAYBOY IMAGE PAGE 4

Went looking for Babe, got a Baconator

That's some pig! Halton pair got more than they bargained for when the 'micro pig' they bought grew to 300 pounds PAGE 12

Cancon you may actually want to watch

Three TV shows coming in the new year bring a bevy of Canadian stars back to the fore, including Dave Foley and Andrea Martin PAGE 19

Donors get in Lac-Mégantic's good books

Quebec town's public library looking at a 2014 reopening after most of its collection was consumed by flame and then rebuilt by donors PAGE 10

And there was light

COMRADES IN CATASTROPHE

A crew from Manitoba Hydro walks the streets of Scarborough on Sunday, clearing any tree limbs that could cause potential damage to hydro lines. The crew has been in Toronto since Dec. 24 to help restore power to the city after last week's ice storm knocked out power to more than 300,000 households. Story, page 3. RANDY RISLING/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ice storm recovery.

Focus turns to branch removal as officials say power crisis nearly over

We're standing on the finish line.

Toronto Hydro CEO Anthony Haines said Sunday there were less than 6,000 households still without power — down from a peak of more than 300,000 after last week's ice storm — and that number was dropping "minute by minute."

"There are trucks rolling toward you if you are one of those customers whose power remains out," he said at city hall Sunday, during the latest of the daily press briefings, which Mayor Rob Ford hopes will soon no longer be necessary.

The city closed four warming centres located in community centres at Mitchell Field, Lawrence Heights, Malvern and Driftwood Park after only eight people spent Saturday night in them. One hundred and eight people in total slept in warming centres Saturday, down from more than 1,000 earlier in the week.

But as long as some people are still without power, Toronto Hydro remains at its highest level of emergency.

"We will continue that posture until each and every customer has had their power restored," said Haines, who had expressed hope on Saturday that everyone might be reconnected on Sunday if there were no further blackouts.

While 40 traffic signals remain out and 41 public housing units are still dark, much of the attention at city hall is now turning toward the massive cleanup of fallen branches that litter the streets. An estimated 20 per cent of the city's tree canopy came down after the storm.

While all the arterial streets in the city are clear, a major push is now on to clear the areas around schools so they are safe when students return to class next week, said transportation head Steve Buckley.

Ford estimated the post-storm crisis cost Toronto Hydro between $8 million and $10 million. He didn't know how much the city had spent, but said city council would have to find "efficiencies" to find the funds.

A special meeting has been scheduled for Jan. 10 to ask the province for money to compensate Torontonians, though he wouldn't say how much the city would ask for.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Blocked streets

1,368

Mayor Rob Ford reported Sunday that 1,368 streets were blocked by debris and downed wires.

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Help comes from far and wide

They may think we're a bit strange, but that hasn't stopped them from travelling across the province and the country to help us out in our time of need.

When crew supervisor Marvin Roos from Dauphin, Man., was out reconnecting houses in Scarborough Bluffs on Christmas Day, an Italian man emerged from his house with a hot drink.

"He came out with some sort of strange coffee — what do you call it, espresso or something? Boy, was it strong stuff!" Roos said.

People have been really nice, Roos' crew said, bringing out cookies and cake as they work.

Hydro crews from Oshawa to Ottawa and Markham to Manitoba gave up Christmas with their families to bunk together in downtown hotels (no pools) and work 14 to 16 hours a day getting our lights lit and furnaces roaring.

All said, 200 bucket trucks have been driving around the city 24 hours a day for the last week, fixing downed wires, repairing poles and reconnecting houses. Everyone at Toronto Hydro is on deck, but their ranks have been bolstered by crews from close and far who forewent Christmas with their families to get the job done.

On Sunday, it appeared that the last of the 300,000 households that lost power after last week's devastating ice storm would be reconnected by day's end, though setbacks were frequent.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A crew from Manitoba Hydro restores power to a school in Scarborough. RANDY RISLING/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Scarborough

Murder victim identified

Police revealed Sunday that To Nu Hua of Toronto was the 64-year-old woman found dead Thursday night in an "obvious state of trauma" in a Scarborough apartment.

Hua's neighbours heard screaming moments before authorities arrived, and neither police nor EMS would elaborate on the state of the body. The death is being treated as a murder.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Search

Smitherman's husband vanishes

Politician George Smitherman's husband Christopher Peloso is missing again for the second time this year.

Peloso CONTRIBUTED

Toronto police requested assistance searching for Peloso, 40, Sunday evening. They say he was last seen at 11 a.m. in the Bloor Street West and Lansdowne Avenue area.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Woman with MS left to brave the dark alone

Kathleen Holding, 39, and her dog Penny in her basement apartment in Scarborough. During the ice storm, Holding, who has MS, didn't have power and therefore could not charge her scooter. RANDY RISLING/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Scarborough. Kathleen Holding's community was among the hardest hit by the ice storm

Kathleen Holding spent a week in darkness. The days blurred into nights and the nights dropped below zero. Cloistered in bed, she cried and tried her best to stave off morbid thoughts.

Some days she ate a bagel. Some days half a slice of pizza. Some days nothing. Left without power after the ice storm, Holding's basement apartment in Scarborough became hell.

The 39-year-old is largely immobile due to multiple sclerosis, and the scooter she uses outdoors froze in her shed on Dec. 21, the storm's first day. A neighbour helped her push it back in, where it became even more useless as it lost its charge.

The storm hit Holding's heavily wooded Guildwood Parkway community the hardest. She has few friends, and her immediate family is dead, with just a schizophrenic brother remaining. She only had her dog Penny to shoulder the darkness with as nearly the entire neighbourhood moved away.

Holding got her power back Saturday afternoon. She blamed the city for the fallen trees that cut it off, stating "the trees should have been cut years ago."

Everything is not back to normal, however. Holding is no more mobile than she was during the storm, and holds on to whatever she can while walking Penny — her scooter, damaged by the cold, still does not work.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"There was no sun to even shine down. It was just ice cubes of cold."

Kathleen Holding

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Investigation into Ancaster father's death

Tim Bosma disappeared May 6, after taking two men on a test drive of a pickup he had advertised for sale. His remains were later found on Dellen Millard's recently purchased farm property. CONTRIBUTED

Preliminary trial for two men begins in September

Tim Bosma disappeared on May 6 after leaving his Ancaster home with two men — one of whom police say was Dellen Millard — for a test drive of a 2007 Dodge Ram 3500 pickup he had advertised for sale online.

Police allege Millard and an accomplice killed Bosma and burned the body on Millard's recently purchased farm property near Ayr, Ont., where Bosma's remains were recovered later that month.

Mark Smich is accused of the murder along with Millard. Both will plead not guilty at the preliminary trial, which begins next September.

Although he denies killing Bosma, Millard declined to respond to further questions about the case.

"I'm hesitant to say anything," Millard says. "This is an adversarial system."

The investigation has also been linked to the disappearance of Laura Babcock, a 23-year-old who had a relationship with Millard before she vanished in the summer of 2012. Several of her final phone calls were to Millard.

Police scoured Millard's farm for a week this fall in connection to her case and reported no significant findings, just a bunch of barrels, some labelled as kerosene.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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'I didn't do it': Dellen Millard's side of the story

Jailhouse interviews. Man accused in Tim Bosma murder speaks about his life, aspirations and the arrest that changed everything

From behind a prison door, Dellen Millard tentatively appears, a tall man in an orange prison jumpsuit, contained behind a thick glass wall.

The doe-eyed 28-year-old smiles as he sits down and picks up a 1960s-style phone receiver and places it to his ear.

In his first public interview, Millard, who police say killed Tim Bosma — allegations that have yet to be tested in court — appears nothing like the brash, young playboy cast as the antagonist in a made-for-Hollywood narrative.

His face and story have made international headlines, yet there remain many unanswered questions. Most notably: Did he kill Bosma?

"No," he says as he makes direct eye contact. "I didn't do it.… They might as well accuse me of having been to the moon. There's nothing real about it."

Police have also linked the death of Millard's father, Wayne, and missing woman Laura Babcock to the investigation.

In two separate prison interviews with Torstar News Service, Millard spoke candidly about the stunning fall from grace that took him from a life of wealth to the dreary seclusion of the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre.

Day of arrest

The day police arrested Millard remains vivid in its retelling. Millard was fetching financial records for his Waterloo Region-based aviation business, Millardair, an empire he inherited from his late father and grandfather, when two Hamilton police investigators arrived and started asking questions: His name. His acquaintances. Whether he knew about Bosma's disappearance. It was almost friendly, he recalls. A short while later, they thanked him and left.

Two hours later, while he was driving home, Millard says he was rear-ended as he idled at a red light.

When he got out of the car, he saw more than a dozen people — plain-clothed officers with protective vests — pointing guns at him.

"I was in shock. I can't pinpoint the feelings," he says. "It was another world."

At the time, police charged him with robbery and forcible confinement in Bosma's disappearance. Days later, after the discovery of Bosma's burned body on Millard's recently purchased farm, police added a murder charge.

The story exploded and focused on Millard, who was portrayed as a spoiled young man.

But Millard says he's not that person. "I shop at Costco. I don't buy expensive clothes. I'm a bargain hunter. I have one Hugo Boss suit," he says.

'I aspired to that image …'

To an outsider, Millard lived a life of leisure. Raised as an only child by divorced parents, he dabbled in various careers but never committed to one.

He "blew" money on his passions. He raced in the Baja desert in a customized Jeep he had worked on with his friends. And he blew cash on massive parties that became renowned among his friends.

"I aspired to that image in some ways because people wanted that of me," he says, pulling up his orange sleeves, revealing large tattoos across both arms that read, "I am heaven sent" and, "Don't you dare forget."

Last year, the death of his father, Wayne, brought focus to his meandering path, Millard says.

"He was probably the person I loved most in the world, even more than myself," he says. "We would have deep discussions. He needed me a lot for the business."

The cause of his father's death remains a mystery. Police initially deemed it a suicide but have since reopened an investigation.

Wayne Millard was an Air Canada pilot before taking over Millardair, a company started by his father, Carl. Left to manage that legacy, Millard says he turned his attention to the business — but not without resentment.

Dellen Millard CONTRIBUTED

"I took it all pretty hard. It was a responsibility I didn't want at that time. I was angry at (Wayne) for the things I had to do because he wasn't there to do them."

Days in prison

Now he spends his days in his own mind, he says.

"I spend time outside the cell in my head," he says. "I reenact movies in my head. It was Jurassic Park last night."

And he devises business ideas. At the moment, he's onto an idea about which he's gained some valuable real-life experience in jail — living in small quarters.

"I've been thinking about a project on submarine living spaces. I spend my time thinking, reading, doing things that are useful."

His life, and that of his family, is in suspension, he says.

His mother visits regularly. But he misses her. Millard can't speak to the woman he had been dating for two years because she is on the list of people the court says he may not contact.

But he hopes to one day. "We were in love."

When a prison guard reenters the room to signal the end of the visit, Millard shrugs his shoulders and hangs up the phone to leave.

Before disappearing behind the door, he stops and looks back for a long moment, waving once.

His smile has vanished.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Canada praised for role in fighting forced marriages

'Obstacle' remains.

UNICEF official lauds Harper government despite controversy over abortion funding

A top UN official is praising the Harper government's foreign policy initiative to end forced marriage of young girls, even if Canada won't fund projects that allow access to abortions.

The Conservative government's practice of not allowing aid dollars to go towards organizations that offer abortions to victimized girls or war-rape victims has sparked heated criticism in some quarters.

But an expert on international child protection said that doesn't diminish Canada's emerging leadership on the issue because there are other ways for the government to help young girls.

"We're trying to leave that off the table.… We're talking about everything but that, frankly," said Susan Bissell, associate director of the child protection branch of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). She called abortion funding "an obstacle to negotiate around."

Bissell was in Ottawa this month and met with policy makers in the offices of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird. She said she was struck by their deep understanding of a problem with health, justice and education components.

"Canada is the first government that I've talked to that sees those connections," Bissell said, adding that when Baird announced Canada wanted to focus on the problem of forced marriages during a speech at the UN in September, her email in-box was flooded with positive messages. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Baird: It's about 'prevention'

Baird defended the government's stance on not funding abortion projects, saying, "It's like fire prevention. In your fire prevention budget, you don't hire firefighters. You do prevention work."

'Gift of life' mass draws thousands in Spain

Children play during a mass in Madrid, Spain, Sunday. Thousands attended the mass to support government moves aimed at tightening restrictions on abortion in Spain. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on Dec. 20 gave his cabinet approval for a new law that would allow abortions only in the case of rape or when there is a serious health risk. Archbishop Antonio Rouco Varela, who led the outdoor service, said "the gift of life" should not be tampered with, and Pope Francis gave his blessing via a video link from the Vatican. ANDRES KUDACKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy

4.9 earthquake hits near Naples

A 4.9-magnitude earthquake rocked southern Italy Sunday evening, sending people into the streets of Naples and country towns. Naples Mayor Luigi de Magistris said there were no reports of damage in the city. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Puerto Rico

Canadian missing after jumping from vessel

The U.S. Coast Guard was searching Sunday for a Canadian who jumped off a cruise ship near a Puerto Rican island. The man was identified as Tien Phuoc Nguyen, 26. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newfoundland

Crew members rescued from ship

The joint rescue co-ordination centre in Halifax says four people out of a 24-member crew were rescued from a container ship having issues with its hull Sunday south of Portugal Cove, N.L. Officials were still working to resolve the issue Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Investing in stability?
Lebanese army gets $3B boost from Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has pledged $3 billion to Lebanon to help strengthen the country's armed forces and purchase weapons from France, Lebanon's president said Sunday, calling it the biggest grant ever for the nation's military.

Michel Suleiman, who made the surprise announcement in a televised national address, did not provide any further details. The Lebanese army has struggled to contain a rising tide of violence linked to the civil war in neighbouring Syria, a conflict that has inflamed sectarian tensions in Lebanon and threatened the country's stability.

"The Saudi king decided to give a generous ... grant to Lebanon amounting to $3 billion for the Lebanese army, which will allow it to buy new ... weapons," Suleiman said. "The king pointed out that the weapons will be bought from France quickly, considering the historical relations that tie it to Lebanon and the military co-operation between the two countries." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sharqiya province

Four wounded in Egypt bombing

A bomb exploded outside a military intelligence building northeast of Egypt's capital Sunday, wounding four people and damaging the structure as protests and security scares roiled the country just weeks before a key vote.

The military-backed interim government, wanting to cement its legitimacy, hopes for a strong voter turnout for a constitutional referendum Jan. 14 to 15.

The bombing struck the military intelligence building in Anshas, 50 kilometres northeast of Cairo, that is home to a number of military facilities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Southern Russia suicide bombing kills at least 16

Debris lies outside an entrance to a railway station in Volgograd, Russia. At least 16 people were killed and scores were wounded Sunday by a suicide bomber at the station in southern Russia, officials said, heightening concern about terrorism ahead of February's Olympics. NIKITA BARYSHEV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Volgograd. City has been struck twice in two months ahead of Sochi Games

A suicide bomber struck a busy railway station in southern Russia on Sunday, killing at least 16 people, including the bomber, and wounding scores more, officials said, in a reminder of the threat Russia is facing as it prepares to host the Olympics.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing in Volgograd, but it came several months after Chechen rebel leader Doku Umarov called for new attacks against civilian targets in Russia, including the Sochi Games.

Suicide bombings have rocked Russia for years, but many have been contained to the North Caucasus, the centre of an insurgency seeking an Islamist state in the region. Until recently, Volgograd was not a typical target, but the city formerly known as Stalingrad has now been struck twice in two months, suggesting militants may be using the transportation hub as a renewed way of showing their reach outside their restive region.

Volgograd, which lies close to volatile Caucasus provinces, is 900 kilometres south of Moscow and about 650 kilometres northeast of Sochi, a Black Sea resort flanked by the North Caucasus Mountains.

The government has deployed tens of thousands of soldiers, police and other security personnel to protect the games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian reaction

"Canada strongly condemns today's cowardly act of terrorism in Volgograd."

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird

NEW TTC FARES Effective January 1, 2014

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Meadowvale Town Centre
Square One
Dixie Outlet Mall
153 Lakeshore Rd. E
6325 Dixie Rd., Unit 1
3105 Dundas St. W, Unit 102
7955 Financial Dr., Unit B
808 Britannia Rd. W, Unit 2
25 Watline Ave., Unit 10
7205 Goreway Dr.
1100 Burnhamthorpe Rd.
3021 Argentia Rd.
789 Taunton Rd. E
1053 Simcoe St. N, Unit 4B
2150 Burnhamthorpe Rd. W
60 Bristol Rd. E
920 Southdown Rd., BLD H, Unit 7
5100 Erin Mills Parkway, Unit V205
4141 Dixie Rd.
1250 Eglinton Ave. W, Unit A16
NEWMARKET
16715 Yonge St.
1065 Davis Dr.
18075 Yonge St.
17600 Yonge St., Unit EE22
NORTH YORK
Sheridan Mall
1700 Wilson Ave., Unit 72
1905 Avenue Rd.
4367 Steeles Ave. W
149C Ravel Rd.
Fairview Mall
4905 Yonge St.
5815 Yonge St.
3111 Dufferin St.
3040 Don Mills Rd., Unit 17B
Leslie Center
OAKVILLE
1027 Speers Rd., Unit 22
478 Dundas St. W, Unit 7
1500 Upper Middle Rd., Unit 2
240 Leighland Ave.
OSHAWA
Taunton Harmony Plaza
1053 Simcoe St. N, Unit 4B
285 Taunton Rd., Unit 20
419 King St. W, Unit 2272
PICKERING
Pickering Power Centre
Pickering Town Centre
611 Kingston Rd.
RICHMOND HILL
9196 Yonge St.
1480 Major Mackenzie Dr. E
10 West Pearce St., Bldg. B
Hillcrest Mall
9350 Yonge St.
10720 Yonge St.
Times Square Mall
1070 Major Mackenzie Rd. E
SCARBOROUGH
Woodside Square
1571 Sandhurst Circle, Unit 502K
5095 Sheppard Ave. E
1800 Sheppard Ave. E
Cedarbrae Mall
1900 Eglinton Ave. E
3300 McNicoll Ave.
1291 Kennedy Rd.
2555 Victoria Park Ave.
411 Kennedy Rd.
3495 Lawrence Ave.
1448 Lawrence Ave. E
5661 Steeles Ave. E, Unit 5
19 Milliken Blvd., Unit U
2490 Gerrard St. E
38 Ellesmere Rd.
300 Borough Dr., Unit 49
THORNHILL
31 Disera Dr., Unit 140
Promenade Mall
Shops on Steeles
6236 Yonge St.
9200 Bathurst St., Unit 26
TORONTO
421 Dundas St. W, Unit G8
282 Queen's Quay W
1015 Lakeshore Blvd. E
1821 Queen St. E
275 College St.
604 Bloor St. W
1348 St. Clair Ave. W
1461 Dundas St. W
2 St. Clair Ave. E
272 Danforth Ave.
471 Eglinton Ave. W
662 King St. W, Unit 2
939 Eglinton Ave. E, Unit 106
154 University Ave., Unit 101
2200 Yonge St., Unit 104
2397 Yonge St.
9A Yorkville Ave.
East York Town Centre
2400 Bloor St. W
919 Bay St.
525 University Ave.
45 Overlea Blvd.
Oriental Centre Mall
1448 Lawrence Ave. E
10 Clock Tower Rd., Unit B1A
1118 Finch Ave. W, Unit 1
6236 Yonge St.
3850 Sheppard Ave.
280 Spadina Ave.
4438 Sheppard Ave. W, Unit 151
900 Dufferin St., Kiosk 4010
1000 Gerrard St. E, Unit K2
618 Sheppard Ave. W
6758 Kingston Rd., Unit 12
730 Danforth Ave.
333 Bloor St. E
2120 Queen St. E
8 Wellesley St. E
1965-1971 Yonge St., Unit A
120 Front St. E
660 Eglinton Ave., Unit 104
3151 Yonge St.
808 York Mills Rd., Unit 15-17
2400 Eglinton Ave. W
2900 Warden Ave.
130 King St. W., Unit CW15
3401 Dufferin St., Unit 108
1 Yorkdale Rd., Unit 180
1 Dundas St. W, Unit Z010
220 Yonge St., Unit H014
112-10 Dundas St. E
2901 Bayview Ave., Unit 128A
329 Parliament St.
200 Bay St., Unit UC – 132B
2248 Bloor St. W
330 Bay St.
4980 Yonge St.
1080 Yonge St.
1 Blue Jays Way, Suite 1200
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Lac-Mégantic library eyes 2014 reopening thanks to donations

One-of-a-kind trove. Explosion consumed original artwork, heirlooms, oldest known photos of the town

The public library incinerated in Lac-Mégantic is aiming for a 2014 renaissance after receiving so many donations it politely pleaded that people stop sending books.

The institution and its treasured archives were consumed by flames in July after a runaway tanker train derailed, exploded and destroyed part of the Quebec town, killing 47 people.

Lac-Mégantic's only library lost a one-of-a-kind trove, which included original local artwork, heirlooms donated by families, the oldest-known photos of the town and the negatives.

The blaze also swallowed nearly all of the library's 45,000 books, sparing just the 1,000 or so titles out on loan at the time.

The only item recovered from the ashes was the library's petty-cash box.

But thanks to a cascade of donations from across Canada, the United States and even Europe, the library's 2,500 members could see the doors open at a new location, in another part of town, as early as this spring.

The rebuilding project is a key part of the recovery process in the community of 6,000 that is still struggling to cope with a disaster, said the library's chairperson.

Diane Roy added that as the derailment obliterated part of the downtown core, many popular gathering spots like the library disappeared with it.

At the time, the library said it had received more than 100,000 books, with most coming from donors across Quebec and eastern Ontario. Today, the library's directors estimate they've taken in some 200,000 documents. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Diane Roy and Pierre Paquet look over the petty cash box on Dec. 9 that was recovered from Lac-Mégantic's only library consumed by flames in July after a runaway tanker train derailed, exploded and destroyed part of the Quebec town, killing 47 people. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Contributions

'There was nothing left'

The Lac-Mégantic library expects to keep up to 15 per cent — or 30,000 — of the donated items and it has already sold many of the extra volumes, an initiative that raised $16,000.

Supporters, meanwhile, in places like British Columbia, Maine, Pennsylvania, France and Germany held fundraisers and sent cash gifts totalling $90,000.

Those contributions include a $5,000 cheque sent to the library by a Halifax woman and $47,000 from the Quebec branch of the Lions Club.

The library reconstruction team is mulling plans to display the only item recovered from the old Frontenac Street building.

"There was nothing left," librarian Daniel Lavoie said. "All that remained were the two columns that had supported the building and the petty-cash box." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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This little piggy is famous on Facebook — and isn't very little

Owners Steve Jenkins, left, and Derek Walter coined the name "Esther the Wonder Pig" after the pig's Facebook page went viral. CYNTHIA BIGRIGG/FOR METRO

Esther the Wonder Pig. After getting 'duped,' GTA pair decide to raise both their porcine pet and awareness of miniature-pig scams

Esther the Wonder Pig is living a life of luxury, rising to international fame via a Facebook page created by her owners.

Steve Jenkins and Derek Walter live with their 300-pound pig in a Halton subdivision outside of the GTA.

When they brought her home in 2012, she fit into a cat carrier.

"We were told that she was a micro pig, that she would grow to be 70 or 80 pounds," said Jenkins, who, after minimal research, adopted Esther.

"We were duped," said Walter, "We were told that she was six months old, but when we took her to the vet, it turned out that she was about six weeks old."

The couple decided to keep Esther and raise her as a pet. The pig quickly became a part of the family, and her owners were happy to give her the life they felt she deserved. Though the pair said raising Esther has been difficult at times, they have not run into any major obstacles — other than the frustration of house-training her.

Jenkins and Walter created a Facebook page and YouTube channel in early December to share photos and video of Esther. Within a week, their story had been picked up by several blogs, and the popularity of their pages skyrocketed. The pair has received messages of support from people in the U.S., Europe and China. Jenkins attributed their popularity to their unique situation.

"So many people have pot-bellied pigs. Nobody has (a pig) in this scenario," he said.

The couple plans to eventually open a sanctuary for homeless pigs — that is, pigs with owners who cannot accommodate them. Until then, they are using Esther's fame to promote a pork-free lifestyle and raise awareness of miniature-pig scams. "Do your research," advised Walter, "Don't go in blind because it's a lot of work."

CYNTHIA BIGRIGG/FOR METRO

Hamming it up

"If she comes over and puts her head on your lap while you're on the couch, she wants to be cuddled on the couch."

Derek Walter, who says he can tell what Esther wants "from her body language."

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2456 Lakeshore Blvd W
30A Rexdale Blvd
25 Woodbine Downs Blvd., Unit 3
Brampton
370 Main St., Unit 25A
252 Queen St E
Shoppers World, Unit 39
Bramalea City Centre
50 Kennedy Rd. S.
Markham
Pacific Mall, Unit D56 & D21
Scarborough
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See dealer for details. ▼/♦/***Freight & PDI ($1,600/$1,600/$1,600/$1,600/$1,650), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2014 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. +Based on WardsAuto.com 2012 Upper Small segment, excluding Hybrid and Diesel powertrains. Standard 10 airbags, ABS, traction control and StabiliTrak®. ®Bluetooth is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG Inc. ♣Comparison based on 2013 Polk segmentation: Compact SUV and latest competitive data available and based on the maximum legroom available. Excludes other GM brands. Δ2014 Silverado 1500 with the available 5.3L EcoTec3 V8 engine equipped with a 6-speed automatic transmission has a fuel consumption rating of 13.0L/100 km city, 8.7L/100 km highway and 11.0L/100 km combined 2WD and 13.3L/100 km city, 9.0L/100 km highway and 11.4L/100/km combined 4WD. Ford F-150 with the 3.5L EcoBoost V6 engine has a fuel consumption rating of 12.9L/100 km city, 9.0L/100 km highway and 11.1L/100 km combined 2WD and 14.1L/100 km city, 9.6L/100 km highway and 12.1L/100 km combined 4WD. Fuel consumption based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. Comparison based on wardsauto.com 2013 Large Pickup segment and latest competitive data available. Excludes other GM vehicles. ♣When equipped with available 6.2L EcoTec3 V8 engine (available to order fall 2013). Class is Light-Duty Full-Size Pickups. ◇◇Requires 2WD Double or Crew Cab with available 6.2L EcoTec3 V8 engine and Max Trailering Package. Maximum trailer weight ratios are calculated assuming a base vehicle, except for any option(s) necessary to achieve the rating, plus driver. The weight of other optional equipment, passengers and cargo will reduce the maximum trailer weight your vehicle can tow. Comparison based on wardsauto.com 2013 Light-Duty Large Pickup segment and latest competitive data available. Excludes other GM vehicles. Class is Light-Duty Full-Size Pickups. ◊U.S. government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (safercar.gov). ††2014 Cruze LTZ, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $28,489. 2014 Trax LTZ FWD, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $30,089. 2014 Equinox LTZ FWD, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $37,539. 2014 Traverse LTZ FWD, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $48,289. 2014 Silverado 1500 LTZ Crew Cab 4WD, MSRP $51,379. Dealers are free to set individual prices. †Offer valid only to eligible retail lessees in Canada who have obtained credit approval by GM Financial, have entered into a lease agreement with GM Financial, and who accept delivery from October 1, 2013 through January 2, 2014 of a new eligible 2014 model. General Motors of Canada will pay the first month's lease payment (inclusive of taxes and any applicable pro-rata amount normally due at lease delivery as defined on the lease agreement). After the first month, lessee will be required to make all remaining scheduled payments over the remaining term of the lease agreement. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. General Motors of Canada Limited reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Void where prohibited by law. Additional conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. **The 2-Year Scheduled Lube-Oil-Filter Maintenance Program provides eligible customers in Canada, who have purchased, leased or financed a new eligible 2014 MY Chevrolet, Buick, or GMC vehicle (excluding Spark EV), with an ACDelco oil and filter change, in accordance with the oil life monitoring system and the Owner's Manual, for 2 years or 40,000 kms, whichever occurs first, with a limit of four (4) Lube-Oil-Filter services in total, performed at participating GM Dealers. 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See dealer for details. ¥Offer only valid from December 10, 2013 to January 2, 2014 (the "Program Period") to retail customers resident in Canada who own or are currently leasing a Chevrolet Aveo, Cobalt, Caprice, Cavalier, Cruze, Epica, Impala, Lumina, Malibu, Metro, Monte Carlo, Optra Sonic, Spark, Volt, Saturn Ion, Aura, Astra, L-Series, S-Series, Sky, that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six months, will receive a $1,000 Holiday Owner Bonus credit towards the lease, purchase or finance of an eligible new 2014 Chevrolet Sonic, Cruze, Malibu or Impala delivered during the Program Period. Eligible retail customers resident in Canada who own or are currently leasing a Chevrolet HHR, Equinox, Tracker, Uplander, Venture, Astro, Lumina APV, Blazer, Traverse, Trailblazer; Saturn Vue, Relay, Outlook; Pontiac Montana/SV6, Transport, Torrent Aztek, Sunrunner; Buick Rendezvous, Terraza, Enclave, Rainier, Oldsmobile Silhouette, Bravada; GMC Safari, Jimmy, Terrain, Acadia or Envoy, that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six months, will receive a $1,000 Holiday Bonus Owner credit towards the lease, purchase or finance of an eligible new 2014 Chevrolet Trax, Equinox or Traverse delivered during the program period. Only one (1) credit may be applied per eligible vehicle sale. Offer is transferable to a family member living in the same household (proof of address required). This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. The $1,000 credit includes HST/GST/QST/PST as applicable by province. As part of the transaction, dealer will request current vehicle registration and/or insurance to prove ownership for the previous consecutive six months. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Void where prohibited by law. Additional conditions and limitations apply. See your GM dealer for details. ¥¥Offer only valid from December 10, 2013 – January 2, 2013 (the "Program Period") to retail customers resident in Canada who own or are currently leasing (during the Program Period) a GM or competitor pickup truck to receive a $1,000 credit towards the purchase, finance or lease of an eligible new 2014 Model Year Chevrolet Silverado Light Duty, Silverado Heavy Duty, Sierra Light Duty, Sierra Heavy Duty, or Avalanche. Only one (1) credit may be applied per eligible vehicle sale. 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Credit is a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive) and credit value depends on model purchased or leased: $500 Boxing Day Bonus credit valid on 2014 model year Chevrolet/Buick/GMC/Cadillac cars and crossovers; $1,000 Boxing Day Bonus credit valid on 2014 model year Chevrolet Silverado or GMC Sierra; $1,500 Boxing Day Bonus credit valid any 2013 model year Chevrolet/Buick/GMC/Cadillac vehicle. All products are subject to availability. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Additional limitations and conditions apply. See your GM dealer for details

Conn. gun owners scramble to register firearms

Dec. 31 deadline. New gun-control law applies to assault weapons, high-capacity magazines

Connecticut gun owners are rushing to register certain firearms and ammunition that will be considered illegal contraband in the new year.

People have been lining up early in the morning at the state Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's headquarters in Middletown in recent days to turn in applications for assault weapons certificates and high-capacity magazine declaration forms so they can legally keep the items.

Under a wide-ranging gun-control law, passed earlier this year in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School mass shooting in Newtown that killed 20 children and six educators, gun owners have until Tuesday to submit the paperwork. Under the new law, the registered large-capacity magazines can be kept fully filled at the owner's home. They can also be taken to a licensed shooting range or gun club and filled to capacity there. Advocates hope the law will prompt people to turn in the magazines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We want to make sure that law-abiding gun owners do not become felons on Jan. 1."

Scott Wilson, president of the Connecticut Citizens Defence League

This December 2012 photo shows a shattered window at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. Holocaust Museum

Nazi barracks returned to Poland

Half of a historic Auschwitz-Birkenau barracks that was on loan to the U.S. has been returned to Poland after two decades and long negotiations, officials said Sunday.

The Nazi barracks was one of the main items at the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, which wanted the lease extended. But Poland asked for it back after adopting new regulations in 2003 that limit the loan of all historical and art works to a maximum of five years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NSA leaks

Mission accomplished, Snowden?

Members of Congress said Sunday they weren't impressed with Edward Snowden's recent publicity blitz calling for an end to U.S. mass surveillance and declaring that he's already accomplished his mission.

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff and Republican Rep. Mike Rogers, on Fox News Sunday, were responding to Snowden's recent comments in The Washington Post that he was working to improve the NSA, not tear it down. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Last hope.' Calif. family looking to keep teen on ventilator at N.Y. facility

The family of a California girl who has been declared brain dead says a facility in New York may be able to accept her and keep her on life support.

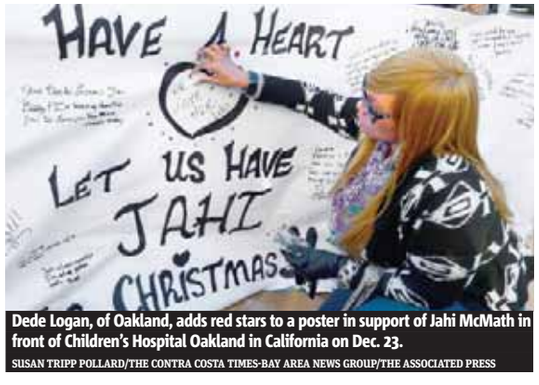
Jahi McMath's uncle and lawyer didn't provide the facility's name in a statement Saturday, saying they don't want media attention to affect her chance of being accepted there.

Attorney Chris Dolan said the New York facility is the last hope after two facilities in California backed out.

Timing is short for the family: A judge ruled that Children's Hospital Oakland may remove the 13-year-old from life support at 5 p.m. Monday unless an appeal is filed.

Hospital spokeswoman Cynthia Chiarappa said the hospital has not heard from any facility to discuss how it can accommodate "a deceased body on a ventilator."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Dede Logan, of Oakland, adds red stars to a poster in support of Jahi McMath in front of Children's Hospital Oakland in California on Dec. 23.

SUSAN TRIPP POLLARD/THE CONTRA COSTA TIMES-BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Refugees in South Sudan camp frozen by fear of ethnic violence

Juba. Around 25,000 people populate UN havens 2 weeks after ethnically-based attacks

The women and girls leave the main United Nations refugee camp here during the day. The men do not. To exit is to risk death, they say.

Whether true or not, such claims show the level of fear that pulses through the main UN camp for internally-displaced people here two weeks after violence broke out in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, and a spiralling series of ethnically-based attacks coursed through the nation, killing at least 1,000 people.

Some 25,000 people live in two hastily-arranged camps in Juba, and nearly 40,000 are in camps elsewhere in the country. The government says those in the camps — who are mostly from the Nuer tribe — can leave and will be perfectly safe. The men here do not believe it.

"It is very hard to go outside because there are people watching," said Wuor Khor, a 29-year-old graduate of Juba University, who was selling bottles of water sitting in a bucket of ice on the camp's ad hoc main thoroughfare. "They follow you wherever you are going and then they kill you."

They, in this case, are members of the Dinka, the majority tribe from which President Salva Kiir hails. In this camp the Nuer, South Sudan's second largest tribe, feel part of a targeted minority after former vice-president Riek Machar, a Nuer, was accused of a coup attempt on Dec. 15 and fighting — often ethnically motivated — broke out. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Taking shelter

Although the violence in Juba has largely quieted down, rebels control the oil city of Bentiu, and Bor, the capital of Jonglei state, remains under threat of attack from Nuer youth, though the government on Sunday said most of a column of 25,000 men marching on Bor have disbanded.

- The Juba camp numbers swell at night, the facility's leaders say. Women and children go out during the day to buy food. They return when the sun sets.
- The camp is a UN military and logistics hub where many of the Nuer in Juba rushed for safety. Makeshift tents are built out of towels, sheets and sticks.

A displaced girl, left, asks a boy to retrieve her yellow flip-flop from the mud, at a United Nations compound that has become home to thousands of people displaced by recent fighting, in Juba, South Sudan.
BEN CURTIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Two U.S. states stirring, and dispensing, the pot

Pot pitfalls plentiful. Worries Wash., Colo., to face include potential crackdown, threats to public health

Colorado and Washington are launching the world's first legal recreational marijuana markets in 2014. Though pot has been sold for three decades at coffee shops in the Netherlands, the two states are the first to regulate and allow a full industry. Being first to allow growing it, processing it and selling it doesn't come without risks. Here's a look at potential pitfalls:

YOUTH USE: The U.S. Department of Justice has told the states it won't interfere with state laws as long as they keep the drug away from those without permission to use it. On the top of that list are children. Neither state will allow people under 21 to buy pot.

TAXES: Nobody knows how to tax marijuana. Too low, and the states won't be able to afford intense regulatory supervision. Too high, and pot users may stay in the black market.

BANKING: Legalization hasn't taken away one black-market aspect of the drug — cash runs the business. Financial services as simple as chequing accounts and credit cards are off limits because of federal guidance to financial institutions. Colorado officials say they're optimistic the Treasury Department will loosen those rules next year, but that's still unclear.

HEALTH: Some doctors warn that increased pot use will result in more emergency-room visits. There's not enough data to show if that is happening, though some hospitals have reported spikes in child admissions for pot overdoses. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers process marijuana at the Medicine Man dispensary and grow operation in northeast Denver. Colorado prepares to be the first in the nation to allow recreational pot sales, starting Jan. 1. ED ANDRIESKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico and NAFTA. Small economy, big winner

Ross Perot, who ran for U.S. president in the 1990s and was an anti-NAFTA crusader, may have had it right about who would win under NAFTA. The North American Free Trade Agreement was an important step for all three members, but the evidence points to Mexico as by far the biggest winner.

On the 20th anniversary of the pact, Mexico — in 1994, an insular, economic basket case — has in two decades emerged as a forward-looking country with expanding global reach, a handful of world-class corporations and a ballooning middle class. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Impact on Canada

Jim Stanford, an economist with Unifor, says Mexico has gone from a bit player in the North American auto sector to the second-largest participant with almost 20% of total production, compared with Canada's 16%. "Heavy truck shipments in Canada collapsed by 75% between 2006 and 2011. It's an incredible example of a manufacturing catastrophe and NAFTA was absolutely a key part of it," he says.

France

Super tax passes on super wealth

French President Francois Hollande has finally got his super tax on high incomes after the country's highest court upheld the law's latest version. Hollande originally promised a 75 per cent tax on income over 1 million euros ($1.47 million). It would have affected a tiny number of taxpayers, but it became a symbol of his campaign promise to make France fairer for the middle class. Hollande's administration rewrote the tax so that it's a 50 per cent tax paid by the employer, and doesn't reduce employees' earnings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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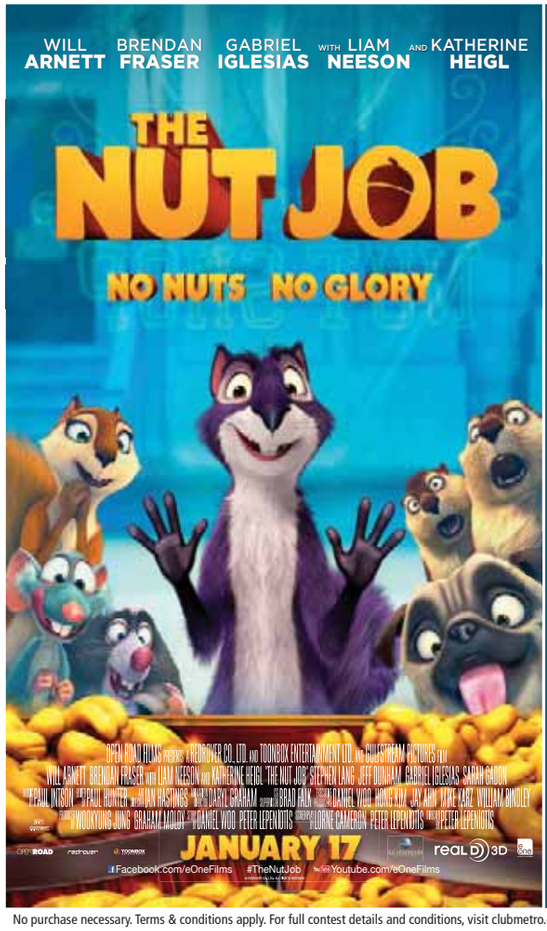

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A VOTE FOR CONSENSUS BUILDING

URBAN COMPASS

Matt Elliott
toronto@metronews.ca

Expect Boxing Day-style lineups at city hall on Thursday as registration officially opens for candidates who plan to run in Toronto's 2014 mayoral election. Even with the prospect of a long-slog campaign and a mega-crowded field — 40 candidates ran for the top office in 2010 — a lot of people are going to try to get this job.

But consider this: Do we even know what the job is? For those of us who don't plan to put our name on the ballot, we'll spend much of the next year conducting a very long job interview. So it's important to think about the qualifications. What makes someone a truly great mayor?

Some voters will seize on candidates who talk tough about supposed excesses of government. Others will focus on candidates with big dreams and expansive ideas.

Many will look for business acumen, or just a trustworthy face.

Then there will be those who just want someone who can respond to their problems, whether it's a pothole or a downed power line in an ice storm.

These are all good things to consider, but there's another qualification candidates need to bring to the table — one that I don't think gets enough play.

The mayor, more than anything else, has to be a consensus-builder.

They have to know how to compromise.

Even before we heard about surveillance planes and crack cocaine, it was his inability to build that consensus and compromise that troubled Mayor Rob Ford's mayoralty and limited his list of accomplishments mostly to things he passed in his first couple of months in office.

His legendary refusal to compromise led to a chronic inability to do much of anything. He lost about half the votes on major items he brought to council.

The office of mayor is simply not empowered to bring in rapid change. The structures of government at city hall mean that one person acting alone is virtually powerless. The elected mayor will have just one vote on a 45-member city council — a council that operates without formalized political parties. Nothing can happen without a majority vote, and that means compromise and incremental change — always.

Any candidate with bluster and big promises is only worth voting for if they can explain how exactly they plan to get their ideas through council. Ideas without implementation are just noise.

Put side-by-side, a candidate who promises compromise and consensus may not look like much compared to the guy promising free subways. But the difference is that the person talking about consensus will be able to get things done. In a city that needs a lot less talk and a lot more action on dozens of critical issues, that's important. That's the job.

Read more of Matt's blog, Ford for Toronto, at metronews.ca

ZOOM

An offering Ijen can't refuse

ULET IFANSASTI/GETTY IMAGES

Sulfur miners try to placate volcano

Miners carry a goat's head for burial in the crater as part of an annual offering on the Ijen volcano in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The ritual is performed by the volcano's sulfur miners who slaughter a goat and then bury the head in the volcano's crater. The sacrifice is performed to ward off potential disasters for the next year. METRO

Crater creates jobs, but can be toxic

The Mount Ijen crater rises to 2,386m, with a depth of over 175m, making it one of the world's largest craters. Sulfur mining is a major industry in the region, made possible by an active vent at the edge of a lake, but the work is not without risks as the acidity of the water in the crater is high enough to dissolve clothing and cause breathing problems. METRO

By the numbers

75

Seventy-five kilograms is the average weight of a basket of sulfur miners must carry twice a day from the crater to a weighing station around 3 kilometres away. The sulfur they mine is eventually sold to cosmetic firms.

Worth mentioning.

Veiled rapper speaks out on women's issues in Egypt

As soon as the beat started, the young veiled woman bobbed her head to the rhythm, raised her hands to get the crowd clapping and then unleashed a flood of rap lyrics that tackled some of the biggest social challenges women face in the Arab world.

With the Middle East's hit TV show Arabs Got Talent as her stage, 18-year-old Myam Mahmoud rapped about sexual harassment, second-class treatment of women, and societal expectations of how a young religious woman should behave.

The Egyptian teenager didn't win the program — she crashed out in the semi-finals — but she did succeed in throwing the spotlight on something bigger than herself.

"Everybody speaks about politics, but nobody tackles the topics that relate to me the most," Mahmoud said.

"Many girls want to say what I rap about, but they cannot for many reasons," she said. "I speak for them."

One of the biggest problems for woman in Egypt is sexual harassment. A UN report released in April said the issue had reached "unprecedented levels," with 99.3 per cent of women in the country reporting that they have been subjected to sexual harassment.

"There is no single female in Egypt that has not been harassed, regardless of her looks," Mahmoud said. "As soon as a girl is born in Egypt, she is repressed with many pressures.

She said she received a flood of messages after her performance on TV accusing her of misrepresenting Islam with her look — read: veil — and attitude. But she dismissed the criticism, saying "religion has never been a constraint — we put the curbs on." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Comments

RE: New Power Outages Plague Hydro Reconnections in Toronto, published online Dec. 27

Did someone expect Norm Kelly to climb up a hydro pole to connect new wiring? I sure didn't.
wklis, posted to metronews.ca

RE: Furniture Giant The Brick Refuses to Honour Online Christmas Shopping Glitch, published online Dec. 28

Good faith? Yes, that would be for the 'real' meaning of Christmas. As for your Brick shopping experience? Go repent
Razorback Andy, posted to metronews.ca

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With Simon Cowell in their corner, Alex and Sierra have a bright musical future ahead of them. CONTRIBUTED

Simon Cowell gives them love

Alex and Sierra.
The X Factor winners of 2013 talk about their road to success

This month, Alex and Sierra, one of Simon Cowell's groups, was crowned the winner of The X Factor 2013. Meanwhile, Jeff Gutt and mentor Kelly Rowland came in second place and Paulina Rubio's Carlito Olivero placed third.

The winning duo consists of Alex Kinsey, 22, and Sierra Deaton, 22, who are both from Florida. And with impressive iTunes song chart numbers, a $1 million recording contract and Simon Cowell supporting them, their future seems bright. They shared their experiences from the road to the top during a conference call during the week of the finale.

Were you afraid to stand in front of Simon the first time? And did you prepare for if he said something blunt?
Sierra: Could you not tell that I was nervous the first time we saw Simon? I was freaking out. I think we had tried to prepare ourselves for standing in front of someone like Simon Cowell, but there's really nothing you can do to prepare yourself because once you step out onto that stage, it's a completely different feeling.

Sierra, you received some tough criticism from the judges. You seemed to really come back from that...
S: I think the night that happened, I had to get all my emotions out. I pretty much cried. But, you know, we came here to get criticism. I think I just had to get it and get over it. I really wanted to prove to myself that I can take it and I can come back stronger. I think getting that criticism just motivated me and I'm actually glad I got it because I know now that I can take criticism on national TV and still come back stronger.

Alex: We watched [it] back that night a few times, because we wanted to see what they were talking about. I honestly think the girls were wrong when they were calling out Sierra as strong as they did.

What was the turning point for you on the show?
A: I think that Give Me Love was a really high point for us. It was our idea to do that song and it went over so well. I think that that was, kind of, when Simon started trusting us to make some good decisions on our own.

S: Yes, I think that our main big moment was Say Something, because it was the first time we both got to sit down, play instruments, and just be artists that are singing the music that they want to sing. The charts definitely reflected that it was a good decision.

What is the biggest challenge you've faced during the competition, and how have you overcome that?
A: I honestly think that just the amount of work that goes into it. Coming into it, you think, "OK, you've got to learn a song here and there[and] you've got to be prepared." But it's a television show, too, you know, and there are a lot of interviews and things that we didn't really expect to come across. We were prepared for the music. We were prepared to work hard and learn the songs and change them up and do our thing with them.

METRO

E-book review

Heaven for hobbit fans

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug Official Movie Guide
By Brian Sibley
iBooks/Kindle/Kobo

Imagine 13 helicopters transporting 13 dwarf teams around a mountain or a sound designer's daughter giving Smaug his dragon's roar. Every faction of the behind-the-scenes Hobbit community, from performers to craftspeople, gets to share a worthy story in this guide.

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A batch of series will make you resolve to watch more Canuck TV

Look ahead. Native stars flex their acting chops in new roles

The new year promises to return several small screen stars to Canuck TV, with Dave Foley, Enrico Colantoni and Andrea Martin among the homegrown luminaries helming new ventures.

Martin plays a self-involved mother in the ensemble comedy Working the Engels on Global, about a family of "ne'er do wells" saddled with a mountain of debt when the patriarch dies.

The series brings the American-born SCTV star back to Toronto, where she lived through much of the '70s and early '80s, and Martin says she relished returning to series television after spending much of her recent career in theatre and doing small TV guest spots.

"It all came together at the right time," says Martin, who most recently performed in the Broadway revival of Pippin.

"I loved the script, I was talking to two other shows in L.A. at the time and I didn't know if I could work it out.... I'm not going to mention the other two shows, but this actually was the better script out of all of them."

Martin plays Ceil, who along with her beleaguered family is forced to run her late husband's storefront law firm, despite having little experience with the law.

Only youngest daughter Jenna, played by Kacey Rohl, is qualified to practice, while the clan's eccentric relatives pick up the rest of the duties. That includes pill-popping receptionist daughter Sandy, played by Azura Skye; and bad boy son Jimmy, played by Benjamin Arthur, who becomes the firm's investigator.

Guest stars are set to include Martin's fellow SCTV alumni Martin Short and Eugene Levy, and Kids in the Hall member Scott Thompson.

Also headed to Global is the new medical series Remedy, starring Colantoni of Flashpoint and Just Shoot Me!

The amiable TV star says the hospital-set serial includes plenty of laughs, offering a welcome switch from the heavy material he previously tackled on CTV's Flashpoint, about an elite tactical police unit.

"It's charming and dramatic and funny and the dialogue is quick and exciting and it really is unique in that it's a family drama that takes place in a hospital," Colantoni says in a recent interview from the set.

Colantoni plays the hospital's acting chief of staff, Allan Conner, a man passionate about his work but also passionate about his children, who also work at the hospital.

Dillon Casey stars as his son Griffin Conner, a med-school dropout who returns to Bethune General Hospital as its newest orderly. Sara Canning is the disciplined daughter Melissa, a general surgeon with her own set of issues, while Sarah Allen is eldest daughter Sandy, an ICU Nurse and bride-to-be. Martha Burns plays absentee mom Rebecca Chestnut, described in publicity material as "the high-functioning family drunk."

Enrico Colantoni stars in the new Global series Remedy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Colantoni says the focus is primarily on the dynamic between father and daughters and son, with up to three and four storylines going on at once.

"I'm playing him, so he's not your grassroots doctor, you know what I mean — he's going to be a little offbeat," he adds of his character.

"He's constantly juggling between his love for medicine with his love for his children and at the same time being the politician within the hospital."

Foley, meanwhile helms the new CTV sitcom Spun Out, a multi-cam workplace comedy about a public relations agency.

The Kids in the Hall comic plays an "eccentric company figurehead" named Dave, while Paul Campbell stars as a failed writer named Beckett who becomes a new addition to the firm. The series shot in front of a live studio audience, which posed extra challenges for cast members not used to playing off of a crowd.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It's charming and dramatic and funny and the dialogue is quick and exciting."

Enrico Colantoni on the new Global series Remedy.

Britney. Las Vegas shows begin with plenty of pomp

Britney Spears performs at her casino gig in Vegas. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britney Spears has begun her early retirement in Las Vegas with a show that looks strikingly like the eye-popping Cirque du Soleil productions found elsewhere on the Strip.

The debut of Spears' long-term casino gig Friday kept an audience of about 4,500 on their feet for about 90 minutes.

The young-for-Vegas crowd was there for the danceable hits and the spectacle, which included acrobatics, a ring of fire, confetti, a live band, frenetic costume changes and a frequently airborne Spears.

The show's production values are unusually high for a casino residency, often calling to mind the golden age of music videos. Its high-concept set pieces featured a cadre of backup dancers who danced in human-sized hamster wheels and somersaulted over the Grammy-winning star.

Spears, 32, has signed on to perform 50 shows each in 2014 and 2015 at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino.

She cuts a different figure from the typical Strip headliner. Other successful Las Vegas acts including Shania Twain, Elton John and Celine Dion have generally attracted an older audience. Judging from Friday's show, her fans are more likely to be found at a casino mega-club than in front of a slot machine.

Still, her show, Piece of Me, is not immune to nostalgia, one of the prime currencies in Las Vegas entertainment. It includes several callbacks to the 1990s and early 2000s, including plaid shirts tied around dancers' waists and a recap of the barely-there sparkling costume Spears wore in the Toxic music video.

Spears' younger self haunted the show, with clips of her early performances playing on huge monitors. Notably absent from those monitors, to the displeasure of some fans in the cheap seats, were any live close-ups of what was unfolding onstage.

Maryn Harberg, 29, spent the night dancing in her $139 seat, on the upper end of the $59 to $179 scale. She'd come to the Strip for just one night, for Britney.

"I loved it," said the beaming Boston resident. "She was totally lip-syncing, but that's what she does, she puts on a show."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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I think I'm more jealous of Spike Jonze than anyone on earth. Prince is a close second.

@RebelWilson
I am so getting ready to CRUSH 2014!! X

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Dead after @Physique57. @JocelynLeavitt & I went. My thighs were quivering like Carrie's chin on homeland, but I was stoic like Sauls beard

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

A year of breakups, Blurred Lines and baby names

STARGAZING
Malene Arpe
scene@metronews.ca

Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth, sadly, break up. He resented her success, independence and continued, relentless requests for him to dress up as a giant, floating, pant-less kitten.

Questionable baby names of the year: Everly Tatum, Ace Johnson, North West, Bear Winslet and Axl Duhamel. You know their band will be opening at one of those flying dance clubs in 2036.

Clint and Dina Eastwood, sadly, break up. She resented his success, wealth, accomplishment and continued, relentless requests for her to help him pull his pants up under his armpits.

Scarlett Johansson is named Esquire's Sexiest Woman Alive while Adam Levine is People's Sexiest Man Alive. Am I the only person who wonders why "alive" has to be pointed out? #zombiesex #unwrapmymummy #yourhandsarecold #ghostassgrabbing.

In All Bad Justin Bieber sings "Ooh you know females and how they like to run they mouths" and, while at a comedy club, he refers to women as "bitches". In unrelated news, 98 per cent of women refer to Justin Bieber as "small idiot boy."

Katniss Everdeen wins the box office by being a strong woman. The ladies of Blurred Lines win at not wearing clothes.

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CANADA'S GIFT REGISTRY

Are video games taking over your life? You're not alone

Addictive behaviour. Experts find 'huge parallels' between gaming and gambling

It starts innocently, as a time filler on a bus or a stress buster after a hard day at the office.

But as the shiny gems of Bejeweled Blitz or Candy Crush's brightly-coloured bonbons burst in a satisfying cascade of explosions, you may find your playing takes a more compulsive tone.

A few minutes may turn into an hour and you still haven't loaded the dishwasher, picked up the book you are reading or engaged in a conversation with your partner or kids.

The fact is, some of these games can really hook users, experts say. And while there may be net gain to playing for many people, you may want to keep an eye on how much time you are devoting to them and what it is costing you, both in terms of what you aren't doing as a consequence and sometimes even what you pay to play.

"It's not a problem unless it's causing problems," says Dr. Bruce Ballon, a psychiatrist who developed the gambling, gaming and Internet use clinic at Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

"But some people forget it is actually causing problems, such as 'Oh, I'm not hanging out with my family as much anymore,' 'My kids are getting angry about it' or 'I'm playing these games in the middle of dinner.'"

Ballon created his clinic because he recognized the similarities between Internet and video games and gambling. "There are huge parallels," he says, suggesting the visual and audio cues as well as hidden costs built into some games are very much like online gambling.

"It's inherently reinforcing," Susan Whitbourne, a psychologist who studies casual video game playing, says of this type of entertainment. "They know what they're doing when they make these things. They're designed to be engaging and exciting and pretty."

Both Whitbourne and Ballon insist these games have good qualities, both as stress relievers (Ballon) and potentially as cognitive training tools for older adults (Whitbourne).

For instance, Whitbourne says the need to constantly scan an evolving field of play and respond rapidly to those changes mirrors the skills drivers need. Practising them by playing these types of games may slow the decline of driving skills in older adults, she and others hope.

Whitbourne, who teaches at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, wasn't looking into the addictive aspects of the game when she started the study, though her own personal experience perhaps might have led her there.

She was introduced to the game by a student, and remembers thinking: "Wow, this is really making me respond a lot more quickly than I feel comfortable doing. I wonder what that's about?"

When Whitbourne started looking into it and similar games, she found there was very little research on them. When she wrote about their potential for sharpening cognitive health on her blog at Psychology Today, PopCap, the company that makes Bejeweled Blitz, asked if she'd like help studying it. They posted a link to a survey she devised on their Facebook page. "I got 10,000 people overnight. It crashed the server."

She wasn't aiming to see if people found it addictive. But in a section where people could make additional comments about the game, a surprising number raised the issue. In fact, 14.7 per cent of 10,308 respondents offered that they found the game had addictive qualities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reality check

"I had a friend (who also plays Bejeweled Blitz) once tell me that she was so addicted to it, she saw two red cars when she was out once and was looking for the third red car to complete the match."

A respondent quoted in a study published in the journal Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking.

If playing time is cutting into time spent with family or other life activities, it may be a problem. ISTOCK

Finding creative ways to boost literacy

Following a recipe together is a great way for kids to develop reading and numeracy skills. ISTOCK

When we think about literacy, we often think about reading and writing. However, literacy is also about our ability to navigate the world around us through technology, numeracy, problem solving, document use and other essential skills.

By incorporating different types of literacy and essential skills into daily family activities, parents can encourage and create opportunities for their children to develop the abilities they need for success in school and for a lifetime of learning.

Family Literacy Day is on Jan. 27, and ABC Life Literacy Canada offers the following ways for families to embrace literacy and learning together:

- Have a family board game night. Get the kids to read the instructions, keep score, count the spaces and spell the words.
- Follow a recipe together. Cooking is a great way to develop reading and numeracy (measurement) skills. Look up a recipe online to practice your digital literacy skills.
- Make groceries a family activity. Children can write a shopping list, identify items in the fridge that are getting low, check price differences between different brands, sort items for packing or putting away, count how many potatoes to buy and look at the cash register receipts.
- During car trips, read signs and billboards and look for interesting licence plates. Listen to audio books in the car, especially during longer trips — most libraries have a great selection.
- When planning a family vacation, get the kids to do some online research and make recommendations about what to see and do. Look at a map together to plan your route to your final destination.

NEWS CANADA

Jan. 27

- To mark Family Literacy Day, which began on Jan. 27, 1999, activities and events are held annually in homes, schools, learning centres and literacy organizations across the country. See familyliteracyday.ca.

Tackle entertaining season with Italian Surf and Turf

1. Heat the oven to 400 F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with kitchen parchment.

2. Arrange the shrimp on the prepared baking sheet with all of the shrimp facing the same direction to form a series of C's. Remove the casings from the sausage, place a small mound of the sausage in the centre of each shrimp and press down so that the shrimp and sausage filling make a solid round.

3. In a small bowl, combine 1 tablespoon of the olive oil with half the garlic and all of the oregano. Sprinkle the shrimp lightly with salt and pepper, then brush the oil mixture over the shrimp and sausage. Bake the stuffed shrimp until they are cooked through, about 8 to 10 minutes.

4. Meanwhile, in a blender combine the red peppers, the remaining tablespoon of oil, the remaining garlic, the vinegar, and salt and pepper to taste. Blend until smooth. Transfer to a small saucepan and heat just until hot.

5. To serve, arrange the shrimp on a serving platter, then drizzle each with some of the sauce.

Ingredients

- 16 peeled and deveined large raw shrimp (about 8 to 10 oz)
- 6 oz hot or sweet Italian turkey sausage meat (about 2 links)
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 2 cloves garlic, minced, divided
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh oregano
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 1 cup roasted red peppers, drained and patted dry
- 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar

This recipe makes 16 shrimp. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SARA MOULTON, AUTHOR OF THREE COOKBOOKS, INCLUDING SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.

Appetizer. Shrimp Satay

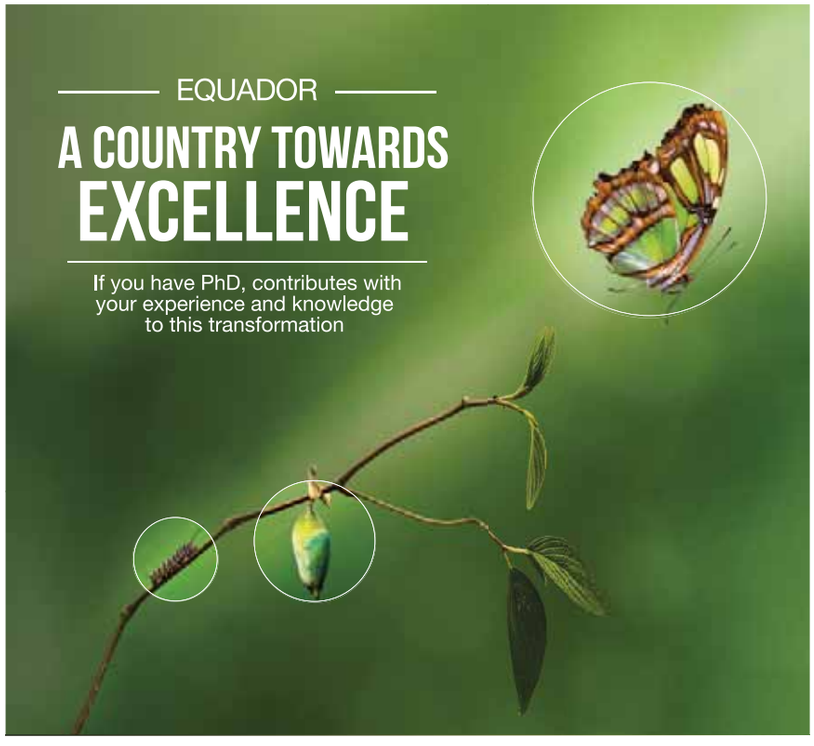
1. Soak bamboo skewers in hot water for 30 minutes. In a food processor, mince garlic. Add peanut butter, soy sauce, sesame oil, rice vinegar, ginger root and honey, and process until smooth. (Make ahead: Prepare peanut sauce up to two days in advance. Cover and refrigerate.)

2. Thread shrimp loosely onto bamboo skewers, 3 to 4 shrimp per skewer, leaving space at each end. Brush sauce over shrimp, covering both sides. Cover and refrigerate for a minimum of 20 minutes or for up to one hour.

3. Preheat contact grill. (If your contact grill has more than one temperature setting, set it to medium-high.) Spray both sides of grill with vegetable cooking spray or oil. Place shrimp skewers on grill, close lid and grill for 2 minutes or until shrimp are pink and opaque. THE CANADIAN PRESS/125 BEST INDOOR GRILL RECIPES BY ILANA SIMON (ROBERT ROSE INC., ROBERTROSE.CA, 2013).

Ingredients

- 12 bamboo skewers (each 23 cm/9 inches long)
- 4 cloves garlic
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) peanut butter
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) soy sauce
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) sesame oil
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) seasoned rice vinegar
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) minced ginger root
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) liquid honey
- 1 kg (2 lb) jumbo shrimp, peeled and deveined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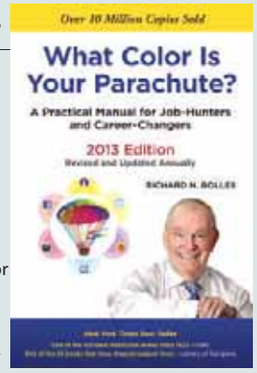
Books that helped us get down to business

Take a page. Five books from this year that might help fatten your wallet and make you happier at work

MAJA LUNDAGER
Metro World News

An updated education

What Colour Is Your Parachute?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A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers
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Revised and Updated Annually
RICHARD N. BOLLES

- **It has been in the hands of 10,000,000 people since it was first released in 1970, so there might be something to it.** What Color Is Your Parachute: A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers is here in a new 2014 edition to help even more people looking for a new work scene. Author Richard N. Bolles keeps it up-to-date with knowledge from job-hunters, HR managers and career counselors. Among other chapters is a long list of social networking tools followed by the benefits of each one. There's also handy advice to help you start your own business and exercises to instill confidence in the work-hunting process.

What the most successful people do before breakfast

Do you stop and ask yourself "Where did the time go?" Perhaps the answers are in Laura Vanderkam's three-part guide to time management. She takes you through what successful people do before breakfast, on the weekends and dispenses practical tips on how to make the most of your time. Maybe your New Year's resolution should be to do a one-week time log, analyze it and rethink your habits with the help from Vanderkam. Chances are, you'll have more quality time with your family and achieve more at work.

The renaissance soul

"A man can do all things if he will," said Leon Battista Alberti in the 15th century, creating what ultimately became the term "renaissance man." In her book, Margaret Lobenstine embraces this statement and helps people who may feel like their varied interests don't fit in a time when one career path and one passion is the accepted norm. Lobenstine gives advice for readers to avoid the paralyzed feeling of choosing between many paths, link passion to a source of income and combine interests so that you don't have to start over every time a new passion appears.

Beyond the job description

This book is kind of like a couples therapist for managers and employees. Through chapters such as Seeing Your Job-Within-a-Job and A Guide to Team Navigation author Jesse Sostrin gives advice to help avoid frustration and friction between employees and managers. The book will help employees step up to the individual contributions expected of them so they can rise to the hidden challenges their managers were foreseeing for them, better serving the needs of the team. It's time to find a mutual agenda!

Your network is your net worth

Wouldn't it be nice if your worth was about happiness and job satisfaction and not just about dollars and cents? In Your Network Is Your Net Worth, Porter Gale, a speaker, entrepreneur and marketing executive, claims that this is actually the case. Gale says social capital is about finding and sticking to the people with whom you share passions and purpose — not just power lunches or office gossip. Those people can be your core circle or a broader group via social media, for example. But to do that you will need to define your values for yourself and nurture your confidence in them.

'Round the world wisdom

Facing adversity? Turn goals into promises

The severe market crash in October 2008 changed my life. I started running to regain my health, both emotional and physical. Shortly after I took my first steps, I ran the Gobi March in China in June '09, followed by the Atacama Crossing in Chile in '10 and the Sahara Race in Egypt in '11. In this post, I share a lesson about life, learned from the desert.

LESSONS FROM THE DESERT
Stéfan Danis
life@metronews.ca

Share your goals with all who will listen. ISTOCK

When faced with a challenge, wanting to overcome it is a great start. The next and more difficult step is committing to that want.

Private goals we set for ourselves many times have a way of falling short, amounting to little more than good intentions. As initial excitement wears off, we become apathetic and less willing to just go for it. By then we have tuned into our own self-doubt, highlighting all the risks and reasons why not to do something. Ultimately we give in to hesitation and our minds rationalize the decision.

When I first shared my decision to run the Gobi desert, I heard some dissonant voices but overall I was greeted with support and encouragement. Later, when I told everyone, I realized backing out would be impossible. Making such a public statement was in effect a declaration, and a declaration is the highest form of promise.

The law of diminishing intentions may drain our willingness to go after goals, but rarely will it have the same effect on a promise we've made. Even today, for most people, giving their word still means something and breaking a promise is unacceptable. When you promise something, it serves to not only draw you closer to your goal but also eliminates any escape mechanism.

Next time you take on a big project, turn your goal into a promise. Better yet, consider making it public.

STÉFAN DANIS IS THE CEO OF NEXCAREER AND MANDRAKE, AND THE AUTHOR OF GOBI RUNNER

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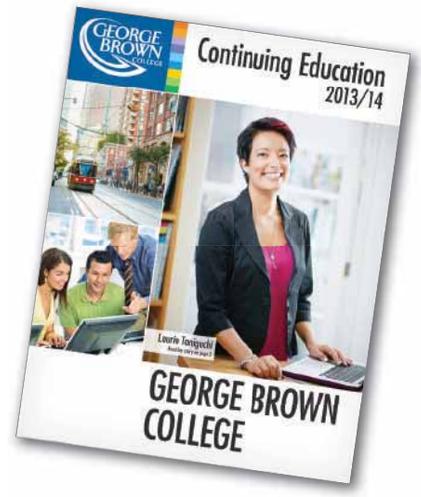

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Phil Kessel gets by the Hurricane's Ron Hainsey, left, and Alexander Semin on Sunday night at the Air Canada Centre. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Leafs stand tall against Hurricanes

NHL. Kessel hits the 20-goal mark with a pair of tallies; Buds' No. 1 centre returns

Phil Kessel scored twice, reaching the 20-goal plateau for the sixth straight season, to help the Toronto Maple Leafs defeat the Carolina Hurricanes 5-2 in NHL play Sunday.

The speedy Leafs sniper could have had more on the night, missing on two breakaways.

On Sunday

Maple Leafs	Hurricanes
5	2

Nikolai Kulemin, Paul Ranger and Dion Phaneuf, with an empty-net goal with eight seconds remaining, also scored for Toronto, which won despite something of a Jekyll and Hyde performance.

Nathan Gerbe and Justin Faulk replied for Carolina (14-16-9), which has not won in five games — a stretch that included two overtime defeats.

Jonathan Bernier made 41 saves as Carolina outshot Toronto 43-27 before a crowd of 19,452 at the Air Canada Centre. The Leafs were loose on defence and were fortunate the Hurricanes did not punish them more.

The game marked the halfway point of the season for Toronto (20-16-5) and was its last outing before Wednesday's outdoor Winter Classic against Detroit before an expected crowd of 100,000-plus at the Big House in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Centre Tyler Bozak returned to the Leafs' top line after a 12-game absence due to an oblique injury. He showed off some of his playmaking skills with three assists and made an important backcheck, snuffing out a Hurricanes threat.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

24/7. Cameras catch inner workings of negotiations

Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It wasn't breaking news, but it was a juicy bit of confirmation.

Word of Maple Leaf captain Dion Phaneuf's pending contract extension has been widely reported since late last week, but when HBO debuted its latest episode of the 24/7 series the rumour crystallized into fact.

HBO's cameras recorded a conversation between Leafs assistant general manager Claude Loiselle and GM Dave Nonis regarding Phaneuf.

"Here is an update on negotiations with Dion," Loiselle tells Nonis via cellphone. "I just got off the phone with his agent (Don Meehan). We've agreed on the numbers, salary and the years. We've agreed on the structure. The only sticking point right now is the no-trade, the limited no-trade. Donny is travelling and will get back to me tomorrow."

After the call Loiselle addressed the camera more directly and appeared to be answering questions from an unseen HBO interviewer.

"Dion is our captain. He's the cornerstone of our organization, plays the most minutes on our team and plays against the best players on the other team. So it's important to have him signed for a long period of time, so we can continue the progression that we're on."

The Leafs and Phaneuf have reportedly reached an agreement in principle on a seven-year, $49-million deal to keep the 28-year-old defenceman in Toronto through the 2020-21 season. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ski accident

Schumacher in critical condition with head injury

Seven-time Formula One champion Michael Schumacher was in critical condition after undergoing brain surgery following a skiing accident in the French Alps on Sunday, doctors said.

The Grenoble University Hospital Center said the retired driver arrived at the clinic in a coma and underwent immediate surgery for a serious head trauma. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Downhill skiing

Guay glides to bronze in Italy

Montreal's Erik Guay won World Cup bronze in the downhill on Sunday in Bormio, Italy, breaking the Canadian record with his 21st career podium appearance.

World Cup leader Aksel Lund Svindal got his fourth victory of the Olympic season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Dodgers have hands full with Puig

The Dodgers have told outfielder Yasiel Puig the organization is "very disappointed" with his behaviour in the wake of his second arrest this year for reckless driving.

The team issued a statement Sunday that said Puig's behaviour "is a very serious issue to us."

Puig was arrested Saturday in Naples, Fla., after the Florida Highway Patrol clocked him going 110 m.p.h. in a 70-m.p.h. zone.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC 168

"There's no real excitement in a fight finishing like that, because you never want to see anyone get hurt like that."

UFC middleweight champion Chris Weidman after his title defence against Anderson Silva on Saturday night in Las Vegas. Silva broke his shin on a kick to Weidman's knee in the second round, ending UFC 168 with a horrific injury.

Pack back on playoff track

NFL. Rodgers, Cobb return to lead Green Bay to NFC North title

Aaron Rodgers and Randall Cobb came back just in time to lift the Green Bay Packers to the NFC North championship.

Rodgers fired a 48-yard touchdown pass to Cobb in the final minute, and the Packers beat the Chicago Bears 33-28 to capture the division title.

Back after missing seven games with a broken left collarbone, Rodgers found a wide-open Cobb on fourth-and-eight to wipe out a one-point deficit with 38 seconds left.

Green Bay will host the San Francisco 49ers next weekend in the wild-card round. The New Orleans Saints will play the winner of Sunday night's tilt between the Philadelphia Eagles and Dallas Cowboys in the NFC's other wild-card game.

The Seattle Seahawks and Carolina Panthers have first-round playoff byes.

The Packers (8-7-1) won their third straight division title and will appear in the post-season for the fifth year in a row. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Packers receiver Randall Cobb scores the game-winning touchdown with the Bears' Zack Bowman on his back in Chicago on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Meanwhile, in the AFC ...

Nick Novak kicked a 36-yard field goal with 5:30 left in overtime and the San Diego Chargers, who trailed by 10 points in the fourth quarter, beat the Kansas Chiefs 27-24 to claim the AFC's final playoff spot.

- The Chargers will take on the Cincinnati Bengals in one AFC wild-card game, with the Chiefs facing the Indianapolis Colts in the other.
- The Denver Broncos and New England Patriots earned byes.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	39	26	11	2	114	81	54
Tampa Bay	39	23	12	4	110	93	50
Montreal	40	23	14	3	99	89	49
Detroit	40	18	13	9	103	111	45
Toronto	41	20	16	5	115	118	45
Ottawa	41	16	18	7	115	134	39
Florida	40	15	20	5	95	128	35
Buffalo	39	11	24	4	71	110	26

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	41	29	11	1	130	94	59
Washington	39	20	14	5	121	116	45
Philadelphia	38	18	16	4	97	107	40
NY Rangers	40	19	19	2	94	108	40
New Jersey	40	16	16	8	95	102	40
Columbus	39	17	18	4	106	112	38
Carolina	39	14	16	9	91	114	37
NY Islanders	39	11	21	7	97	131	29

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	41	27	7	7	157	115	61
St. Louis	38	26	7	5	137	92	57
Colorado	37	23	11	3	108	95	49
Dallas	38	19	12	7	112	111	45
Minnesota	40	20	15	5	92	102	45
Winnipeg	40	17	18	5	109	120	39
Nashville	39	17	18	4	89	115	38

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	40	28	7	5	130	100	61
San Jose	38	24	8	6	125	97	54
Los Angeles	39	25	10	4	108	79	54
Vancouver	39	22	11	6	106	93	50
Phoenix	38	19	10	9	116	117	47
Calgary	38	14	18	6	95	120	34
Edmonton	41	13	24	4	106	139	30

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Sunday's results
Buffalo 2 Washington 1 (SO)
Florida 4 Montreal 1
Pittsburgh 5 Columbus 3
St. Louis 3 Dallas 2 (OT)
NY Rangers 4 Tampa Bay 3
Toronto 5 Carolina 2
Vancouver at Calgary
NY Islanders at Minnesota
Winnipeg at Colorado
Anaheim at San Jose
Saturday's results
Detroit 4 Florida 3
Ottawa 4 Boston 3
Montreal 2 Tampa Bay 1 (SO)
New Jersey 2 NY Islanders 1
Nashville 3 Los Angeles 2
St. Louis 6 Chicago 5 (SO)
Anaheim 3 Phoenix 2 (OT)
Philadelphia 4 Edmonton 3 (SO)
Monday's games — All Times Eastern
Washington at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	21	34	55
Kane, Chi	23	30	53
Getzlaf, Ana	19	25	44
Backstrom, Wash	10	34	44
Thornton, SJ	5	37	42
Ovechkin, Wash	30	11	41
Perry, Ana	22	19	41
Sharp, Chi	22	19	41
Malkin, Pgh	9	32	41
Toews, Chi	15	25	40
Kunitz, Pgh	20	19	39
Tavares, NYI	13	26	39

Not including last night's games

NFL

WEEK 17

Sunday's results
N.Y. Jets 20 Miami 7
Pittsburgh 20 Cleveland 7
Cincinnati 34 Baltimore 17
Indianapolis 30 Jacksonville 10
Tennessee 16 Houston 10
N.Y. Giants 20 Washington 6
Minnesota 14 Detroit 13
Carolina 21 Atlanta 20
New England 34 Buffalo 20
San Diego 27 Kansas City 24 (OT)
Denver 34 Oakland 14
Green Bay 33 Chicago 28
New Orleans 42 Tampa Bay 17
San Francisco 23 Arizona 20
Seattle 27 St. Louis 9
Philadelphia at Dallas

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	24	5	.828	—
d-Miami	23	7	.767	1½
Atlanta	17	14	.548	8
d-Toronto	13	15	.464	10½
Washington	13	14	.481	10
Charlotte	14	17	.452	11
Detroit	14	18	.438	11½
Boston	13	17	.433	11½
Chicago	11	17	.393	12½
Cleveland	10	20	.333	14½
Orlando	10	20	.333	14½
Brooklyn	10	20	.333	14½
New York	9	21	.300	15½
Philadelphia	8	21	.276	16
Milwaukee	6	24	.200	18½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	25	5	.833	—
Portland	24	6	.800	1
d-San Antonio	24	7	.774	1½
d-L.A. Clippers	21	11	.656	5
Houston	21	12	.636	5½
Phoenix	18	11	.621	6½
Golden State	19	13	.594	7
Dallas	17	13	.567	8
Minnesota	15	15	.500	10
Denver	14	15	.483	10½
New Orleans	13	15	.464	11
Memphis	13	16	.448	11½
L.A. Lakers	13	17	.433	12
Sacramento	9	20	.310	15½
Utah	9	24	.273	17½

d - division leader
Sunday's results
Golden State 108 Cleveland 104 (OT)
Orlando 109 Atlanta 102
San Antonio 112 Sacramento 104
Oklahoma City 117 Houston 86
Philadelphia at L.A. Lakers
Monday's games — All Times Eastern
Washington at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Portland at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Miami at Denver, 9 p.m.
Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Tuesday's games
Atlanta at Boston, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Indiana, 3 p.m.
Golden State at Orlando, 5 p.m.
Brooklyn at San Antonio, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Houston, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Portland at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

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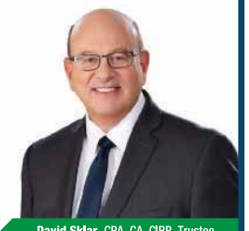

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
A new moon in the career area of your chart means it is time to make a decision about your future. But make sure you know all the facts and are thinking straight before you move ahead.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
All things will be possible for you as the new year gets underway but that does not mean that you have to do everything. Be selective.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Resist the urge to resort to underhand methods to get what you want this week. Even if your motives are pure it is your tactics you will be remembered by, so play by the rules.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
A new moon at the very start of the year urges you to express yourself fully and emotionally, even if you are the kind of Cancerian who does not usually like to let others know how you feel.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It may be the party season but you still have work to do and because of that you may have to cut back a bit on the fun and games this week.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you are involved in anything of a creative or artistic nature it will go very well in the early days of the New Year. It's also a good time for affairs of the heart.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may be a bit sensitive at the moment but that's OK because, if anything, you have not been sensitive enough in recent weeks and need to redress the balance.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Do what comes naturally and don't worry in the slightest what other people might think about it. The more open you are about your needs and desires and act the more respect you will get from the world.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Anything of a financial or business nature will go well for you over the next few days, which makes a change.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It's good that you are eager to start something new but don't be so eager that you fail to think it through properly.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The new year is almost here and everyone is singing and dancing but make sure you set aside a few private moments for yourself.

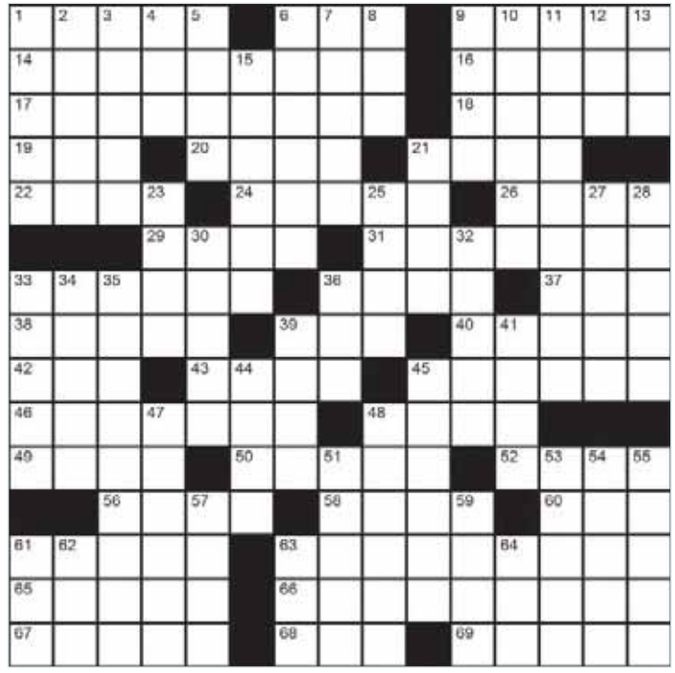
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Everyone is entitled to their opinions but that does not mean all opinions are equal. If a point of view you've held for years is shown to be lacking in some way then don't be afraid to give up on it. Opinions evolve like everything else.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



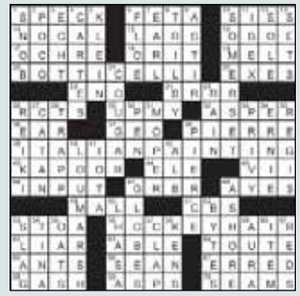
Across

1. Sweet __ __
6. __ _ 180
9. Flare
14. Old West settlement-no-more: 2 wds.
16. Princess "hat"
17. British Columbia city
18. Take _ __ forward
19. "M" in RAM (abbr.)
20. River to the Ubangi
21. "Electro" suffix
22. Amazes
24. Eagle's nest (var. sp.)
26. __ even keel: 2 wds.
29. Bohemian
31. Dictionaries name
33. Canadian actor Roy
36. Canadian music honour
37. Health supplements store
38. Get _ __ of (Contact)
39. Director Mr. Craven
40. Actor Milo
42. Torah reader's pointer
43. Continue: 2 wds.
45. Treated someone nasty
46. Reeeally cold
48. Throw
49. Succulent plant
50. Run __ of (Conflict)
52. Literary collection (abbr.)
56. Smashes
58. Vexed state
60. "Whoopee!"
61. Particular passageway
63. Halifax __ International Airport
65. My Fair Lady (1964) director George
66. Atom Egoyan
23. Canadian actor Mr. Rubinek
25. Post-op locales
27. Year: French
28. Visual arts univ. in Halifax
30. Hilly range
32. Shoelace shapes
33. The Beatles' Eight __ _ Week
34. Self-mover's rental
35. Canadian Olympic Committee member Steve, one of skiing's Crazy Canucks
36. Ms. Aniston, to pals
39. Arf!
41. The Ramayana heroine
44. Komodo dragons
45. Contact lenses rinse, __ solution
47. Fanatic
48. Ocean liner company since 1840
51. Prefix with "arthritis"
53. Moscow negatives
54. Stories
55. Household bill, commonly
57. Seas: French
59. Non-stick pan brand
61. Namesakes of Mario's Saved by the Bell role
62. "Consort" completer
63. Bashful
64. "__ _ picture paints..." (Bread line)
67. Actor Jimmy
68. Greeted, Rocky-style
69. Old West prop

Down

1. Kind of lizard
2. The Taming of the __
3. __ de terre (potato, in French)
4. Astronaut's away-from-Earth home, for short
5. "__ __, Brute?" — Caesar in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, Act III, Scene 1
6. Folk music classic: Tom __
7. Proprietor
8. Director Mr. Lee
9. Remain
10. Country music trio, __ Annies
11. Letterman's TV realm: 2 wds.
12. I am. You __...
13. Mouth, informally
15. Goodies
21. Novelist Mr. Uris
directed movie, The Sweet __ (1997)

Friday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

3		9		5	6			4
	1		2					7
	5		4				9	
1							2	
		2	1		8	7		
	8							5
	4				1		7	
2					4		8	
7			9	6		5		

Friday's Sudoku

2	3	8	1	6	4	5	9	7
6	5	7	9	8	2	4	3	1
4	1	9	3	5	7	8	2	6
5	4	6	2	1	3	7	8	9
9	8	2	5	7	6	3	1	4
1	7	3	8	4	9	6	5	2
7	2	1	4	3	8	9	6	5
3	9	4	6	2	5	1	7	8
8	6	5	7	9	1	2	4	3

Today
-9°/-12°
Flurries
40%

Tuesday
-8°/-14°
Flurries
40%

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